THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended the launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on the plantation of Jatropha Curcas. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for the proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has had a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared. The Planning Commission have recently received the DPR for 'in principle' approval. Any allocation for bio-diesel fund by the Government would become due only after the project receives approval in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Government.

(c) Field trials conducted by oil marketing companies with bio-diesel blended diesel in the transportation sector have yielded statisfactory results.

River water integration plan

†*38. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared full outlines of River water integration plan; and

(b) the details of the plan including the target fixed therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) has not prepared any plan by the name of 'River Water Integration Plan'. However, (MOWR) (erstwhile Minsitry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging interbasin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basin/areas which comprises of two components namely Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has indentified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs). NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Rivers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Development Component and two links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component. The completion of remaining of 2 FR's of Peninsular Component is dependent upon the concurrence of the State Govt. of Karnataka and the completion of balance FR's of Himalayan Component is dependent upon the consent of the neighbouring countries.

Reduction of Government's stake in Central PSEs

*39. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether and *ad hoc* group of experts on empowerment of Central Public Sector Enterprises has recommended that boards of profit-making PSEs be allowed to reduce Government stake upto 51 per cent by raising capital from the market;

(b) if so, whetehr expert group has stated that any decision to reduce Government's equity to less that 51 per cent in navratnas, miniratnas and public sector enterprises with a three years profit making record should be taken only with the consent of the Parliament; and

(c) if so, what are other steps Sengupta's panel has suggested and how its recommendations have been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Ad-hoc Group of Experts on Empowerment of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) has recommended that the Board of Directors of CPSEs should have the power to raise equity capital from the market, so long as the Government's share of the overall equity remains above 51 per cent. Further, if raising such equity requires an enhancement of the authorised capital, permission for expanding the authorised capital should be given in a time bound manner by the Government. At the time of granting such approval, the Government may decide to extinguish part of its shareholding at the price which the company shares command in the market.

(b) The Ad-hoc Group of Experts have recommended that in the case of Navratnas, Miniratnas and other consistently profit-making CPSEs. (those CPSEs which have been making profits for the past three consecutive years and have a positive networth) reduction of Government shareholding to less than 51 per cent should be taken only with the consent of Parliament, as the ultimate representative of the people.